

Great Fortunes of Today Not Computed Under Nine Figures

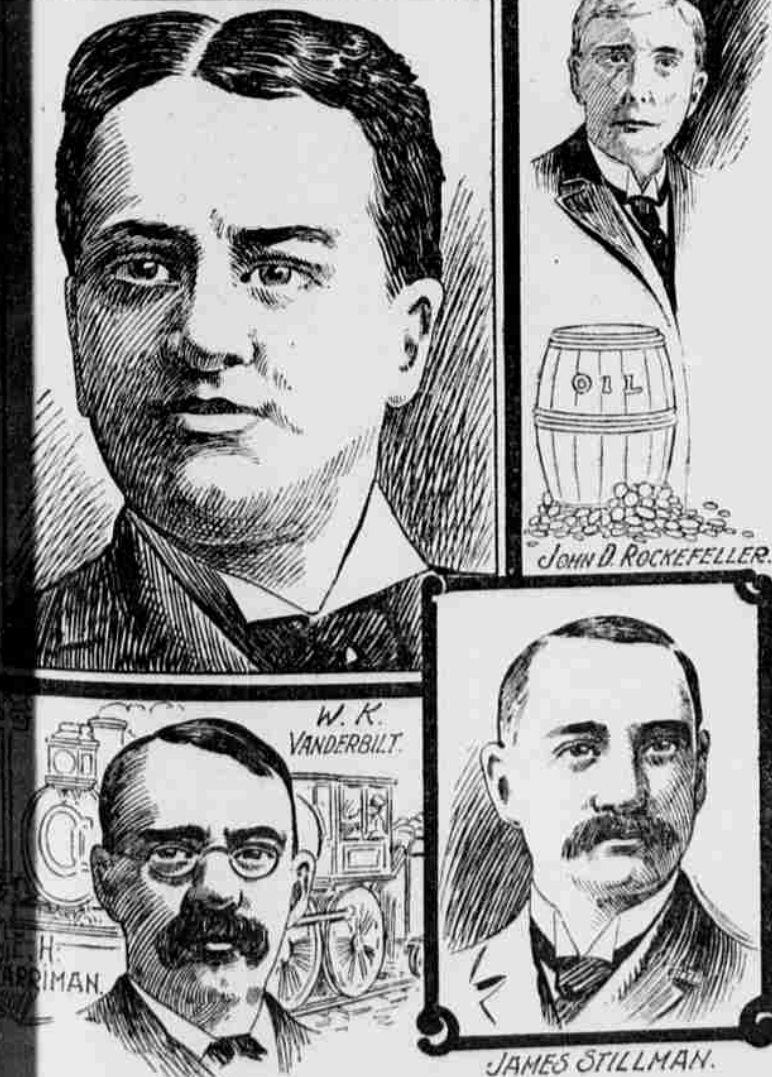
Not Far Behind Rockefeller, Who Confesses to a Quarter of a Billion, Come Not a Few Estates and Private Fortunes Which Run Into Nine Figures—Impossible to Estimate Great Holdings—Andrew Carnegie, Senator Clark, Mrs. Walker, the Astors and the Guggenheims, the Vanderbilts and the Goulds Probably Do Not Know What Sums Their Riches Reach

New York.—John D. Rockefeller's fortune, according to Frederick T. L. his almoner, "cannot exceed \$300,000,000." This estimate was made on Mr. Rockefeller's own estimate. While this figure indicates a smaller sum than Mr. Rockefeller has been popularly supposed to possess, it leaves him still the richest man in America, although he believes Senator William Clark prove eventually to be the richest man in the United States. Owing to a great undeveloped mining property his fortune cannot be accurately estimated.

Furthermore, great fortunes which are placed in the same class as Mr. Rockefeller's are by no means infrequent. The great fortune of John D. Rockefeller is estimated to be around the \$100,000,000 mark. Half a dozen men and estates are rated at sums ranging anywhere from that figure to Mr. Rockefeller's \$300,000,000. Such fortunes are so numerous to fix the standard sums of nine figures.

Carnegie's Vast Accumulation. When the Carnegie company was started in New Jersey in March, 1890, preliminary to the formation of the United States Steel corporation, Carnegie was credited with \$86,000 in stock and \$88,147,000 in cash, or \$174,529,000 in all. He reformed business in the following year. At that time his fortune was estimated at sums ranging from \$166,000 to \$250,000,000, and his income from \$24,000,000 to \$26,000,000 a year. His income is now about \$1,000,000 a year, according to a recent estimate. Conceding that his income for six years has averaged \$20,000,000 or \$120,000,000 in all, he could have given at least \$100,000,000 without impairing his capital.

Millions Are Inherited. The Astors, Vanderbilts, Goelets and others represent a class in which inherited wealth has been preserved and



increased by succeeding generations. By this method and, in some instances, by the creation of trust funds, a substitute has been found for the law of primogeniture and entail in England—a system which is forbidden in America.

John Jacob Astor, the first, died in 1848, the richest man of his day. His estate was worth \$40,000,000. The bulk of it was left to his son, William Astor, who devoted himself sedulously to the family real estate business. On his death in 1875 he left \$30,000,000 to his sons, \$70,000,000

to the bulk of his property. Twenty-six relatives were the beneficiaries of legacies of \$25,000 each, which have largely been increased since then. After paying small private bequests it was announced that the rest would be given away by Mrs. Sage. Before the will was filed, one estimate of the size of the fortune was \$60,000,000. This was declared to be much too low. The estimate of Wall street was \$100,000,000. Other estimates since the will was filed have varied from \$65,000,000 to \$93,000,000. The balance which Mrs. Sage will distribute is said to be more than \$75,000,000.

America's Richest Widow.

The story of Mrs. Anne Weightman Walker's \$120,000,000 is not without its elements of tragedy. Most of her fortune came from her father, William Weightman, of Philadelphia. Starting as a penniless boy in a laboratory, Mr. Weightman laid the foundation of his wealth in the quinine trade during the civil war and by introducing sugar-coated quinine pills. It was swelled rapidly by real estate investments in the heart of Philadelphia, including a theater, hotels, office buildings, and business and residential blocks.

His friends were amazed when he died, leaving his entire fortune, except for a few small bequests, to Mrs. Walker, his daughter.

There were absolutely no restrictions on her use of the money. The will contained no charitable bequests. His other descendants were practically ignored in the will. They were the two sons and five daughters of his



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dead sons, John Farr Weightman and William Weightman, Jr., and three grandchildren, Mrs. Jones Wistar, the widow of William Weightman, Jr., since remarried, started to contest the will on behalf of her children—a suit which created a sensation in Philadelphia society and dragged for months through the courts.

Hetty Green's Millions Grow.

A third woman must be added to this list, Mrs. Hetty Howland Robinson Green, the woman financier. Mrs. Green has passed her three score years and ten, and spent more than 40 years in active business life. She is probably the second richest woman in the country, her wealth being estimated at \$100,000,000. She inherited \$5,000,000 in 1865 from her father, a whaler of New Bedford, Mass. An aunt subsequently added \$6,000,000 more. She nearly doubled it before she married Edward H. Green. Her most important property is the Chemical National bank and her heirs are her two children, Edward Howland Robinson Green, who lives in Texas, and Miss Sylvia Green. Mrs. Green's frugal life, her skill as a financier, her ability as a money lender, and many eccentricities have resulted in innumerable anecdotes that have made her personality familiar.

Millions from Railroad Deals.

James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad, and one of the masters of American railroads, is reputed to be worth \$100,000,000. He is 68 years old, and owns transportation facilities covering almost the entire continent and steamship lines to the Orient. His rise has been swift and comparatively recent. He saw his first opportunity in 1879, when he gained control of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad, reorganized it, and started to develop the Northwest. In 1893 he completed the Great Northern to the Pacific coast, with its 6,000 miles of lines and 1,000 miles of yards and sidings. He owns a superb fleet of steamships on the great lakes, including the boats of the Northern Steamship company.

Several of the great fortunes of the country must remain largely a matter of speculation. To this class belong the accumulations of J. Pierpont Morgan, H. H. Rogers, and E. H. Harriman. Mr. Morgan's fortune was recently estimated at \$50,000,000, but

this at best is a hazardous guess. Equally hazardous would be an estimate of the wealth of Edward H. Harriman, the giant of Wall street and master of 29,000 miles of railroads extending from ocean to ocean, and valued at more than \$2,000,000,000. A man of nearly 60 years, taciturn, secretive, even among his associates, unostentatious in his many benefactions, Mr. Harriman's wealth has been estimated at \$150,000,000. Probably no one but himself knows how nearly his fortune approximates this sum.

Great Gould and Field Estates.

The estate of Marshall Field, the great merchant, has been valued at more than \$100,000,000, and this is considered a conservative estimate. The stores belonging to the estate in Chicago transact business amounting to more than \$50,000,000 a year. The real estate includes not less than 20 building sites in the heart of Chicago, block after block of land near the University of Chicago, hundreds of acres in the Calumet region, farther south, and iron lands in Michigan. Of the stocks are large holdings in the Baltimore & Ohio, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Chicago & Northwestern. Jay Gould followed the example of the Vanderbilts and Astors in seeking to concentrate and conserve his vast fortune. It consisted chiefly of stocks and bonds of the various corporations in which he was interested when he died, 15 years ago. They had at that time a market value of \$81,000,000. His real estate was valued at \$2,000,000. The net value of the estate was



MRS. RUSSELL SAGE

Senator Clark's New Palace.

Another multi-millionaire from the west is Claus Spreckles, the sugar refiner of San Francisco, for many years known as "the Sugar King of the Hawaiian Islands." He is generally credited with being worth about \$50,000,000. He joined the so-called "millionaires' colony" on upper Fifth avenue last August, when he purchased the marble house of Isaac Stern, near Sixty-seventh street.

No residence in this neighborhood attracts more attention than the elaborate, even fantastic, mansion of Senator William A. Clark, Fifth avenue and Seventy-seventh street. It has been in course of construction since 1899. Its cost has been estimated at sums ranging from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Senator Clark, the "Copper King" of Butte, will add a unique personality to the millionaires of New York. His purchases of pictures have attracted no less attention than his business and political contests. A recent estimate of Senator Clark's fortune at something over \$150,000,000 was considered not excessive.

Two Great Foreign Fortunes.

Passing to the great fortunes abroad, the Rothschild millions appear as a Colossus, to be measured with a foot-rule. Their united properties pass far beyond the hundred millions. In 12 years they loaned nearly \$450,000,000 to European governments. Some idea of their riches may be gained from the fact that since 1815 they have raised for Great Britain more than \$1,000,000,000; for Austria, \$250,000,000; for Prussia, \$200,000,000; for France, \$400,000,000; for Italy nearly \$300,000,000, and for Russia more than \$125,000,000.

Compared with American fortunes, most of the other estates held in Europe seem small indeed. The property of the Duke of Portland, for example, is the second in point of importance in England. His estates comprise 153,200 acres, including the famous Welbeck Abbey and Sherwood Forest, and London properties in and around Regent, Welbeck and Wimpole streets, Cavendish square and Portland road. The duke's income is estimated at \$1,500,000 a year.

SPECTOR DRIVES MAN FROM HOME.

GHOST OF FATHER-IN-LAW CONSTANTLY HAUNTS RETIRED INDIANA MERCHANT.

INHERITED PALATIAL PLACE

Apparition of Deceased Relative Follows New Owner Over Premises Continually, Finally Forcing Him to Move.

Elkhart, Ind.—Harassed by the stalking specter of his aged father-in-law, John B. Garman, who died two years ago, John Otterson has abandoned a palatial suburban place which was bequeathed him by his deceased relative. Otterson is a wealthy retired merchant, having been in business in Elkhart for a number of years.

While Mr. Otterson is not prone to believe in ethereal materializations, he asserts that in spirit form his father-in-law haunted him. The apparition followed him over the premises, stood by him when he attempted to do light work about his country home, and frequently was his companion during the dead hours of night. That Mr. Otterson has an ordinary temperament, and is not at all given to nervousness, makes his story of the ghost all the more remarkable. He is a giant physically, and mentally, well-educated and well read.

Otterson claims that he only escaped the apparition when away from the home and without the boundaries of the luxuriant gardens where his deceased relative spent the greater part of his four score years.

The aged Mr. Garman, one of the pioneers of Elkhart county, left a large estate. To his daughter, Mrs. Otterson, and her husband he bequeathed the greater part of it.

The eccentric old gentleman, who has come back from the spirit world to haunt the living, died from a broken heart, his only son having met a tragic death. Dating from that incident to the time of his demise, which occurred six months later, Mr. Garman walked sorrowfully about the premises lamenting through the long hours of the summer days his son's untimely death and refusing to be soled. His grief was deep seated, and he virtually walked out his life on the familiar paths of the old homestead.

It is in the picturesque brick mansion about and around his favorite earthly retreats, that the son-in-law in recent months has seen the ghostly form of John Garman. The specter first appeared a few months after the old gentleman's death.

Frequently while he was roaming over the fields, or strolling through

the groves or orchards, the mysterious, unreal and unnerving specter has sprung up beside him, and timing his pace to that of Mr. Otterson has accompanied him about. It makes neither sign nor motion, looks neither to the right nor left, but with folded arms and bent head keeps up its noiseless tread with maddening precision.

Sometimes, asserts the haunted man, upon returning from a drive the unearthly vision appeared to him in the barnyard. As he unhitched and unharnessed his team the apparition watched his procedure with unseeing eyes. The expression of the face was always sorrowful—just as it had been



The Spectre Accompanied Him About.

in life during his days. The materialization to Mr. Otterson was full life size, the very image, he declares, of his father-in-law. No other person has seen the alleged ghost.

Mr. Otterson's experience with the specter but recently became public. He bore the ordeal silently, fearing the taunts and ridicule of his friends. Lately the annoyance became so great that he decided to remove from the place.

The Garman family was one of the most widely known in this city, being among the very early settlers of the county. The family, whose name was formerly spelled "German," came here from Pennsylvania, where John Garman's relatives settled and named the city Germantown. The Ottersons are equally well known. No one here doubts the veracity and sincerity of Mr. Otterson's statements concerning the specter which has haunted him, but all are at a loss to account for the strange incident.

BABE RIDES SAFELY ON AN AVALANCHE

COLORADO CHILD CAUGHT IN BIG SLIDE AND DUG OUT UNHURT NEXT MORNING.

Salida, Col.—Edgar Mason, four years old, is probably the only person of any age who has had the startling experience of being rushed down a



He Went Through the Avalanche Unharm.

mountain side in an avalanche of snow, given up for dead and dug out next morning alive and well.

The worst snowslide in the history of this region occurred at Monarch, 18 miles west of here, killing six people outright, seriously injuring one and injuring a dozen more or less severely. But the baby boy was saved.

Monarch is a small camp consisting of a few buildings and nearly all the inhabitants had gone to bed when the slide started with a noise like a cannon shot. Beyond this there was no warning and no chance to escape. The Mason cabin was directly in the path of the huge area of snow, which gathered weight and velocity as it rushed down the mountain side.

The slide seemed to be the signal for the beginning of a terrific blizzard, which much hampered the rescue party sent from this city. They dug out the bodies of five people, and then about 10:20 next morning came to the boy Edgar. He was in the top

story of the cabin, which had been carried 1,000 feet.

The cabin gave the appearance of having been overturned completely, and he was so wound up in the bed clothes that it is probable they protected him and saved him from certain death.

The other children escaped with cuts and bruises, but the father and mother were killed outright by the slide. It may be days before their bodies can be recovered, as the snow is still coming down in great clouds and there are already 18 feet of snow in the streets.

MADE INSANE BY ACID FUMES.

Fate of Man Who Worked for Years Over Lead-Laden Vapors.

New York.—Driven raving mad through inhaling for too many years nitric and sulphuric acid fumes laden with molecular particles of lead, Ludwig Rosana, 48 years old, a forman at the works of a chemical company in Berkeley, Cal., has been committed to the Stockton state hospital by Judge Melvin. Dr. H. B. Mehrmann and Dr. O. D. Hamlin, the examining physicians, diagnosed his case as insanity due to lead poisoning, the lead having been taken into his system as a result of his work in the making of acids.

Rosana has been engaged in the manufacture of acids since he was 18 years of age. He was considered an expert in this line. He worked in chemical factories in Europe before he came to America.

At certain stages in the processes of making nitric and sulphuric acids the materials are held in lead chambers. It had been Rosana's duty to watch these receptacles, from which fumes constantly arise, carrying with them minute particles of the metal, which the forman has been breathing into his lungs for many years.

The victim of the lead poison talks incessantly and incoherently. He has lucid intervals, when he converses with remarkable intelligence. There is a possibility that he may recover his reason at the asylum, as he will receive medical treatment there and will be removed from the source of the poison that has blighted his life.

Allowances.

Mr. Happy—Yes, sir, I make my wife a regular allowance every week. Don't you yours?

Mr. Henpeck—No-o. She makes me an allowance, when I earn enough.—N. Y. Weekly.